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COUNTRY Europe and Asia Minor

REPORT NO.                     

25X1

TOPIC Situation of Armenians Living in Foreign Countries. Particularly

France

EVALUATION            25X1

PLACE OBTAINED                     

DATE OF CONTENT June 1949

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DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 17 October 1949

REFERENCES                      25X1

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REMARKS                     

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1. Armenians are distributed over the world as follows:

- 1.065,000 live in Soviet Armenia
  - 310,000 in Georgia
  - 250,000 in Azerbaijan, and
  - 1.000,000 are dispersed over all the world (about 75.000 living in France)
- 2.665,000 Total

A more detailed list cannot be given as all previous statistics were invalidated as a result of the recent repatriations.

2. a. After World War II the Soviets caused a large-scale repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia, with the government of YEREVAN granting all immigrants freedom from duties on articles such as furniture, personal property, machines and instruments. The repatriatees were even advised to buy machines and instruments and import them. The government covers 50 percent of the costs for houses which are being built by repatriatees and, in addition, grants loans to be amortised after fifteen years. Repatriatees to Soviet Armenia immediately become Soviet nationals.

b. The chief argument of the Soviet propaganda abroad is that only the Soviet Union preserved an Armenian home for the Armenians and saved at least a remainder of the former Armenian country for them.

c. Five thousand Armenians are said to have returned from France and 20,000 Armenians returned to the Soviet Union from Syria and Lebanon between 29 June and 5 October 1946. Forty thousand Armenians returned from the Balkan countries in 1946. A total of 90,000 Armenians was repatriated in 1947. Increasing hate towards foreigners forced the Armenians to leave the Arabian countries, particularly Egypt.

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